

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is a revised drawing sheet of Figures 8-10 showing element number 130D changed to "130C". As required, this drawing is labeled in the top margin as "Annotated Mark-Up Drawing". Upon receipt of a formal Notice of Allowance, the undersigned will submit a formal replacement drawing.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, the undersigned has amended Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 19 and 20 and has canceled Claims 2, 13 and 15.

The undersigned has also made a proposed amendment to the drawing changing the numeral 130D to "130C" in Figure 10. Upon approval of the drawing change and upon receipt of the formal Notice of Allowance, a replacement drawing sheet will be submitted including this correction.

In the Office Action Examiner Hannon rejected Claims 1, 3, 8, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 as being anticipated by the patent to Komplin and Claims 2, 10, 11 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Komplin and further in view of Renard. Claims 12 and 23 were rejected over Komplin in further view of Wood. To distinguish the subject of the invention set forth in this application over the patents to Komplin, Renard and Wood, the claims have been amended, particularly independent Claims 1 and 14, to provide that the bearing in the form of an elongated tubular member has opposed ends and the bearings include a longitudinal slit therein extending between the opposed ends and from the outer surface of the bearing to the axial passageway. As stated in Claim 14, the slit is of full depth and extends between the opposed ends of the tubular member. The slit is identified by the numeral 156 in Figures 5, 7 and 9, that is, in each of these three illustrated embodiments of the invention.

Claims 2 and 15 as initially included in the application provided for a longitudinal slit but to more clearly identify the slit as employed in the invention herein, the parent claims have been amended to include the longitudinal slit which extends from end-to-end of the bearing tubular member and from the outer surface to the axial passageway. That is, the slit forming a part of the tubular member is of full depth.

Claims 2 and 15 as initially presented were rejected by Examiner Hannon as being unpatentable over Komplin in further view of Renard. Neither Komplin nor Renard show a

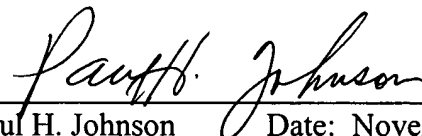
tubular bearing having a full depth slit extending the full length of the bearing tubular member. Renard has slots in the bearing but none of these slots extend the full length from end to end of the bearing.

The significance of the slit 156 as taught in the present application is that the bearing can more successfully respond to changes in temperature without changing the external circumference of the bearing. Stated another way, the provision of slit 156 allows the circumferential length of the bearing measured from one edge of the slit around the bearing to the other edge of the slit to change while the actual bearing diameter is not required to change. Thus, slit 156 facilitates acceptance of a shaft having an external diameter that is subject to thermal expansion in a way that is improved compared to the teachings of Komplin, Renard and the other references cited by Examiner Hannon.

It is therefore believed that the claims as amended herein clearly define over the cited art and the application should be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Should any other amendments be necessary to place the application in condition for a Notice of Allowance, Examiner Hannon is invited to call the undersigned at the below noted telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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